

INFORMATION ON REFUSE/GARBAGE DISTRICTS

Refuse and recyclables are collected and disposed of from residences by basically three different methods:

Municipal Collection: A department of the municipality does the collection using municipal employees. This is the method used by communities such as the City of Buffalo and the Town of Cheektowaga.

Refuse/Garbage Districts: The municipality chooses a single company through competitive bidding to do the collection and disposal from residences throughout the whole town. A referendum will be held in Clarence on March 28, 2006 for Town real property owners to decide if they want this type of system.

Private Subscription: Each resident contracts individually with a company for collection and disposal. This is the system presently in use in Clarence.

All cities and towns in Erie County presently have either municipal collection or solid waste Districts except the Towns of Hamburg and Clarence, which have private subscription.

Why is a refuse/garbage district good for Clarence:

Cost: The Town Board has received competitive bids and has agreed to set the cost at \$160/year/residence under a 5-year contract with the low bidder. The only yearly increase allowed is the Consumer Price Index up to a maximum of 4% per year. No sales tax in accordance with State law; no fuel surcharges; and no other increases allowed in the contract. This cost compares to the lowest cost currently being quoted for private subscription for senior citizens of about \$172 per year including sales tax and fuel surcharges and up to \$272 per year for other residents also including sales tax and fuel surcharges. And these private subscription costs can be raised at any time by any amount.

The reduced cost for a District occurs because of the competitive bidding for the whole town rather than each individual contracting on their own and because the contractor will be collecting from each house rather than from sometimes widely separated houses. Also there will be only one bill submitted to the Town rather than billing and collecting from each customer.

Total savings townwide will be nearly \$1,000,000 per year and \$5,000,000 for the 5-year contract.

Safety: Presently, three companies collect within Clarence leading to as many as three collection days on each street with garbage cans out three different days. Six refuse trucks (three garbage and three recycling) come down each street each week. With a Refuse/Garbage District, garbage truck traffic will be reduced to one day per week in each neighborhood. This provides fewer hazards for children, pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

Health Issues: Animals (rodents, coyotes, crows) will be less attracted to areas if garbage is curbside for only one day per week.

Aesthetics: Currently garbage is visible curbside for up to three days per week on each street instead of one day in each neighborhood for a District. And no garbage will be dumped roadside to avoid paying for collection because everyone will have collection.

Highway Costs: Garbage trucks are nearly the only heavy trucks on many residential streets and they cause considerable wear and tear on the streets. By reducing the number of trucks by two thirds, our roads will last longer.

Environment: Fewer garbage trucks mean less pollution emissions, less noise, and a better neighborhood environment.

No Extra Bills to Pay: Cost for garbage and recycling collection and disposal will be included on your tax bill once per year and you will not be required to write any other checks.

Details of Clarence Refuse/Garbage District

If a District is formed, collections will begin January 1, 2007. Collections of refuse and recyclables will be once per week from all one, two, and three family residences throughout the Town. No limit on the number of cans collected each week as long as the refuse comes from that residence.

Weekly collections will also include bulky items (couches, chairs, etc) and white goods (refrigerators, ranges, etc) and the contractor will remove Freon at no extra charge. Recycling of essentially the same items as presently allowed will be included. Two recycling bins will be supplied to each residence.

Collections will **not include manufactured home parks, apartment building complexes, or town house and/or condominium developments currently serviced through homeowners associations,** or from commercial businesses, industrial facilities, or educational institutions. These properties will be charged a fee of \$2.56/year as a legal requirement for receiving the benefits of a District and can be used for other town-wide activities such as tire and hazardous waste collections.

District charges will be included on the yearly tax bills beginning in February 2007. There will be no other charges and no other billing.

The Referendum

The referendum will be held March 28, 2006, 7:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m. at the Clarence Town Hall. All owners of taxable, real property (including spouses and others if owners) are eligible to vote. The Referendum will be held to decide if a Refuse/Garbage District will be formed.

If approved, a District will be formed.

If defeated, collections will revert to private subscription as they are now.